

# Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC) 1USG Subcommittee – Trade Executive Summary

March 1, 2017

The logo for the Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC) features the letters 'COAC' in a bold, serif font. The 'C' and 'A' are blue, while the 'O' and 'C' are red. Below the letters are two horizontal lines, the top one red and the bottom one blue.

COMMERCIAL CUSTOMS OPERATIONS  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

# ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS TO CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

## One U.S. Government at the Border Subcommittee Executive Summary – Trade Progress Report March 2017

### 1. Background:

The Advisory Committee on Commercial Operations of Customs and Border Protection (COAC) determined to carry on the work from the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Term COAC One US Government at the Border Subcommittee. The Mission of the Subcommittee is to implement the January 15, 2013 COAC 12<sup>th</sup> Term Recommendation:

*That CBP pursue interagency partnership programs following the principles and standards set forth in the One US Government Master Principles Document and progress toward completion can be measured via CBP reporting quarterly back to COAC on progress being made to implement programs that align with these principles, principally through the Border Interagency Executive Council (BIEC).*

**Trade chairs:** Susie Hoeger and Amy Magnus

**Government:** Jeffrey Nii, Acting Executive Director, Trade Policy and Programs, Office of Trade; Debbie Augustin, Executive Director, Trade Transformation Office, Office of Trade

### Outline of Work

The Subcommittee continued its work in promoting the One USG Master Principles document through the North American Single Window Working Group and newly formed Fish & Wildlife Service Working Group.

### 2. Summary of Work

#### North American Single Window Working Group

The North American Single Window Working Group (NASW WG) consists of importers, filers, software vendors, Canadian and Mexican trade partners, and CBP representatives. The group's vision statement is:

*Streamlining Imports and Exports in North America: A Single Window Approach*

*As Canada, Mexico and the United States advance their respective Single Windows, we commit to align our approaches in order to streamline processes and requirements to the greatest extent possible to foster fair and competitive trade in North America.*

The expected goals/benefits of a North American Single Window include:

- *Increasing trade and economic growth by aligning and simplifying Canadian, Mexican and United States import and export reporting processes which reduces the costs of doing business among the region.*
- *Facilitating compliance with and enforcement of trade requirements among Canada, Mexico and the United States.*

- *Minimizing the requirement for paper forms in the import and export process by allowing commercial traders to electronically submit information to comply with Customs and other government regulations for border-related decisions in the region.*
- *Promoting transparency and process predictability.*

Pursuant to the border mapping exercise, the NASW WG made several recommendations at the November 2016 COAC meeting. No further WG meetings have been held since then.

As a high priority project for 2017, the NASW WG (expanded to include additional trade stakeholders from Canada and Mexico) will be collaborating with the BIEC's Foreign Entity Identification Numbers (FEIN) group. The goal is to develop a potential solution, no later than June 2017, that can be shown as a global best practice.

### **Fish & Wildlife Service Working Group**

The Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) Working Group, led by COAC member Madeleine Veigel, was formed with representatives from FWS, CBP, COAC, and key stakeholders from the trade with the task of providing comments and recommendations on the agency's ACE pilot and implementation. In particular, the WG is reviewing processes related to non-designated port exemptions, FWS HS flags, the disclaim process and what FWS refers to as the "Y" and "N" scenarios which relate directly to a variety of different species. An in-person meeting is planned for mid-March, and the subcommittee expects to make recommendations at the May public meeting.

### **Other Work**

The subcommittee has continued to collect trade feedback on the ACE implementation, which will be summarized and presented in the committee's public remarks.

## **2. Next Steps**

1USG will continue to monitor CBP, PGA, and trade readiness as the ACE rollout continues, and will provide feedback to CBP and make recommendations as appropriate. The subcommittee also looks forward to working with the BIEC on the various projects that have been identified as priorities for 2017, potentially including:

- De Minimis for PGAs
- Foreign Entity Identification Numbers
- Advanced Data
- Harmonization of Sub-Descriptors
- PGA Access to Seizure and Enforcement Decisions

We conclude by reiterating our previous statement:

*It is imperative that the trade community and government agencies establish mutual understanding for the future of data exchange, engagement expectations and cooperate to achieve the appropriate risk based mitigation standards that secure cargo movement and facilitate trade at the speed of business.*